

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1555

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 2113

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT, HU

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

FOR LUERS AND ANDREWS FROM AMBASSADOR

REF: SECSTATE 131505

1. I FULLY AGREE THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO TAKE EVERY APPROPRIATE STEP TO INSURE SENATE PASSAGE OF THE TRADE AGREEMENT. I HAVE THE FOLLOWING QUICK SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE.

A. SENATORS BIDEN AND MCGOVERN MIGHT BE WILLING TO BE MAJOR BALL-CARRIERS IN THE SENATE. THEY BOTH HAVE VISITED HUNGARY AND HAVE BEEN ACTIVE SUPPORTERS OF THE TRADE AGREEMENT.

B. IN MY VIEW, AN APPROACH TO SENATOR JACKSON AND HIS STAFF, PARTICULARLY RICHARD PERLE AND DOROTHY FOSDICK, WOULD BE MOST APPROPRIATE. JACKSON HAS EVERY REASON TO SUPPORT THE AGREEMENT. HE AND HIS STAFF MADE IT CLEAR TO YOU AND ME THAT THEY FAVOR IT, AND I SUGGEST HIS ASSISTANCE BE SOLICITED. IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW HOW MUCH OF A LEAD HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE, BUT IF APPROACHED I'M REASONABLY CONFIDENT HE WOULD BE HELPFUL.

C. WE SHOULD DEFINITELY GET BOB STRAUSS INVOLVED. IN TERMS OF
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HIS OWN RESPONSIBILITIES HE COULD ILL AFFORD A DEFEAT ON THIS ISSUE IN THE SENATE. IT WOULD BE AN OMINOUS INDICATOR OF CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO A FUTURE MTN AGREEMENT. REMEMBER, TOO, THAT STRAUSS HAS A VERY CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH LONG. BOB AND I ARE GOOD FRIENDS, TOO, AND IF YOU THOUGHT IT ADVISABLE I WOULD BE HAPPY TO PHONE HIM FROM BUDAPEST. THE SAME, INCIDENTALLY, APPLIES FOR SCOOP JACKSON.

D. ALTHOUGH OBVIOUS, IT IS WORTH REPEATING THAT WE SHOULD GALVANIZE THE U.S. CHAMBER'S SUPPORT. I ASSUME THAT THEY HAVE INFLUENCE WITH SENATORS WHO MIGHT BE DOUBTFUL, PARTICULARLY ON THE REPUBLICAN SIDE. THE CHAMBER SHOULD ALSO BE ASKED TO GET LEADING C

PANIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN HUNGARIAN TRADE, E.G., GENERAL MOTORS, CORNING, JOHN DEERE, INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER, LEVI STRAUSS, DOW CHEMICALS, ETC., TO DO THEIR BIT AS WELL.

E. DURING MY TRIP HOME IN MARCH, I ALSO TALKED TO SENATORS GAYLORD NELSON AND PAT MOYNIHAN, BOTH OF WHOM ARE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE, AND THEY EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE HUNGARIAN TRADE AGREEMENT. I DOUBT WHETHER MOYNIHAN WILL BE PREPARED TO TAKE A LEAD (THOUGH A DIPLOMATIC APPROACH MAY BE IN ORDER), BUT I THINK NELSON IS A REAL POSSIBILITY. BOTH ARE OLD FRIENDS.

2. THESE ARE SOME RANDOM THOUGHTS I HAVE WITHOUT HAVING SEEN THE REPORT ON THE DEBATE IN THE HOUSE. I NEED HARDLY ADD THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE NOT "TO RUN SCARED." I ASSUME, TOO, THAT THE WHITE HOUSE, AS WELL AS THE DEPARTMENT'S CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS STAFF, FULLY APPRECIATES THE IMPORTANCE OF SENATE APPROVAL AND WILL USE ITS FULL RESOURCES TO GENERATE SUPPORT IN THE SENATE.

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